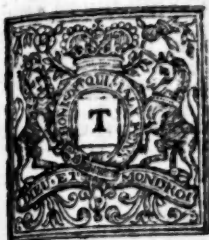


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N^o 238.



THE Author of the following Letter seems to have discovered a Blot or Defect in the Treaty of *Utrecht*, which having not yet been so much exposed, and perhaps not so much attended to as it demanded, it would become Mr. D'Avers and his Patriots to account for, before they sit for Blunders in the present Administration; otherwise 'tis like throwing Men into the Mire, and then pelting them for being there. But the Gentleman who has favour'd us with the following Letter, has, we think, placed the Saddle on the Right Horse; for to our being notoriously out-witted at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, must be imputed all the Tears of the Sugar Colonies; so that whilst the Author is endeavouring to do some Service to those Plantations, he is so happy as to do some small Justice to the present M—y; it being evident from hence, that the calamitous Condition of those Islands is owing to the Misconduct of that Set, who were at the Helm in the four last Years of the Queen, which we think every one ought to know; and all wise Men that consider the Matter duly, must be sensible, that as Things are now circumstanc'd, our M—y will have enough to do to extricate the Colonies from all the Difficulties they labour under.

S I R,

HAVING seen my Letter to you of the 23^d of February last, printed in the *Daily Gazetteer* of the 3^d of March, I send you another on the same Subject, *The Preservation of the Sugar Trade and Colonies*: Which is offer'd to the Publick by way of an Appendix to those Papers that I now see publish'd under the Title of *THE NATIONAL MERCHANT*.

It has been said by a Gentleman of good Understanding, 'That no Commonwealth or Monarchy did ever arrive at a very great Power, but by Methods to be comprehended by the Understandings of Men; and that we read of no great Empire ruined, but the Seeds of its Destruction may have been observed long before in the Course of its History; there being a certain Degree of Wisdom, Industry, Virtue and Courage, requisite to advance a State, and such a Measure of Folly and ill Conduct necessary to pull it down.'

We have a convincing Proof of the Truth of this Gentleman's Observation in the present and former respective Conditions of the *British* and *French* West India Sugar Colonies: For it is most certain, that the *English* were, at one Time, in Possession of the much greater Part of the Sugar Trade, and that it was then in the Power of this Nation to have monopolized the Whole: But at length the *French* have got the Better of us, and the *Sugar Islands* they have possessed themselves of, do very much, in many Respects, excel our's.

FIRST, among the *Caribbee Islands*, (for at present we will consider these separate from *Jamaica* and *Hispagola*) the *French* have more Harbours, Rivers, and Extent of Land than the *English*; for in *Martinique* alone, they have several very good Harbours, as well as at least one in each of the rest of their Islands (*Marigalante* excepted) and in our Islands there are none (*Antigua* excepted) — Then for Rivers; their Islands plentifully abound with them, which is a vast Advantage to them above our Islands, especially in dry Years. — And as to Land, their Islands being so much larger than our's, as that *Martinique* alone is as large as *Barbados*, *Antigua*, *St. Christopher's*, *Nevis* and *Montserrat*; besides, their other Islands not only affording Land enough to their Planters and Slaves, but Room to settle new Plantations or Estates for their Children, which has occasioned such a great Increase of Inhabitants, as that in *Martinique* itself, there can be spared at any Time for the King's Service, four or five Thousand Men for a Descent on any of their Neighbours.

SECONDLY, Their Fortifications are larger, more regular, and kept in better Order and Repair, than those in our Islands.

THIRDLY, They have about fourteen or sixteen Companies of the King's Forces in their Islands, much better taken Care of than our's in the *Leeward Islands*; they are lodged in their Fortifications, and their Officers dare not to ill use them.

FOURTHLY, besides the Officers of the above-mentioned Companies, they have several old Officers of the King's, with the Title of his Lieutenants, and they act as Lieutenants to the General, or as Lieutenant Generals on Occasion. These are placed in proper Places, far off the General, as at *Fort St. Pierre*, *La Trinite*, &c. and so every where, as the General sees proper: And the General has a Guard of *Swiss*, with their own Officers, at *Port Royal*. And,

FIFTHLY, their Islands in general, especially *Martinique*, being full of Vallies and Mountains, makes it naturally very strong, by reason of the several Passes to be march'd through.

I have heard a credible Story of M. *Phelipeaux*, who was General of these Islands in the last Years of the Reign of *Louis XIV.* viz. That being in Disgrace at the Court of *France*, and looking on himself as under a State of Banishment, he had form'd a Project to cast off the Dependency of these Islands, from the Crown of *France*, and to erect a Republican Government, much after the Model of that of *Venice*; and that he had prepared the chief Inhabitants for it; but that his Death, which did not happen without some suspicion of foul Play, from a Physician sent from *France*, put an End to it. It was said, this Project was found among his Papers after his Death; and I have seen the Heads of it. This I mention, only as a Proof of the Power and Strength of the *French* Sugar Islands at that Time; and it is certain, that not long after the Death of M. *Phelipeaux*, the Inhabitants of *Martinique* broke out into open Rebellion, seized on their General and Intendant, and by force sent them both to *France*; and yet the Court thought proper to over-look it, with as good a Countenance as it could; for tho' it declared them Rebels, and obtained Orders from our Court and others, that they should have no Relief or Assistance, yet their Punishment was wink'd at; and the Court of *France* thought it necessary to establish the *Swiss* Guards in *Martinique*.

BUT let us attend. — Nothing more, I think, demands the Attention of *Great Britain*. — How unhappily was her Interest at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, with respect to the *Caribbee Islands*, over-look'd or disregarded!

I would avoid every Party and Personal Reflection: — I believe the Interest of *Great Britain*, with respect to these Islands, was not set before the Ministry and Parliament in any reasonable degree of Light, either at the Treaty of *Ryswick*, the Treaty of *Gertraydenburgh*, or the Treaty of *Utrecht*.

BUT some will say, was not the *French* Part of the Island of *St. Christopher's*, yielded up to *Great Britain* by *France*? and is not that whole Island become our sole Property by the Treaty of *Utrecht*? yes, yes! There lay the Game! The *French* understood it — we did not.

To explain what I mean (since Truth requires it) it is necessary to advance what, I fear at first Sight, will look like a Paradox, viz. That even this very Cession of the *French* Part of the Island of *St. Christopher's* to us, was a Point that turn'd more in Favour of *France* than *Great Britain*: — which I prove thus,

FIRST, *France* has for very many Years had two Things in View, one, the fully peopling *Martinique*, *Guadelupe*, and the adjacent Islands in the *Caribbees*; the other the possessing herself of *Hispagola*, and peopling that Island also with great Numbers of Inhabitants. Secondly, to remove all her Subjects off from the smaller Islands in those Parts; such as *St. Martin's*, *St. Bartholomew's* and *Santa Cruz*; and to settle them in the great Islands aforesaid: But *St. Christopher's* being the first of her Settlements, she found it no easy Matter to remove her Inhabitants from thence. They would not leave their old Habitations and Neighbourhood for new ones, being too well fix'd, notwithstanding all the Temptations and Encouragements that were offer'd them. This Cession therefore of the *French* Part of *St. Christopher's* to *Great Britain*, exactly answer'd the Wishes and Designs of *France*, by furnishing the aforesaid Great Islands with such a Number of season'd and experienc'd Planters who have been of excellent Service to strengthen them, instruct the raw *European* Supplies of Inhabitants in the making of Sugar, &c. — And the Wisdom and Politicks of *France*, in looking towards Futurity, leaving the small Islands to others, and pos-

sessing herself of the great ones, surely needs not be spoken to — We begin to be but too sensible of it; yet I hope not quite too late.

FURTHER to confirm what I have said in Relation to *St. Christopher's*, and at the same Time let you see by what Steadiness and Application *France* is become so powerful in those Islands: I will give you a Passage out of a *French* Historian that lived among these Islands, in the Infancy of their Settlements (by the *French* and *English*); who well understood, and has particularly related the Competitions and Struggles that were then between us. 'Tis *Father Terre* in his General History of the *Antilles* Islands, where he resided as a Missionary from the Court of *Rome*. He relates (in *Tom. I. p. 146*), That the *Sieur de Louvilliers de Poigny*, Lieutenant General of the *French* Islands in *America*, did in the Year 1639. make a Proposal to the *West-India Company* in *France*, to sell to the *English* all the *French* Lands in *St. Christopher's*, and to transport himself with the Inhabitants and their Slaves to *Guadelupe*, which he esteemed the finest and most fruitful of all the *Caribbee Islands*; and by making this the Capital of them all, and possessing himself of five or six other Islands in the Neighbourhood, he assured them of several Advantages, and that the *French* would thereby become impregnable and invincible in those Parts; and this Project was thought at that Time to have been of the utmost Importance. For the Historian acquaints us, that M. *Renou*, who was then a Judge at *St. Christopher's*, and a Confident to M. de *Poigny*, mentioning this Project to M. *Fouquet*, in a Letter dated the 21th of December, 1639. tells him, in short, 'That the only Way to make the King's Name ring in those Parts of the World, and to make his Subjects live in Peace and Safety, would be to separate himself as soon as possible from our neighbouring Enemies, and to render ourselves impregnable, and invincible by the Possession of five or six Islands that that are in a manner contiguous.'

AND pray, Sir, after all this, don't you think it as plain to be seen as the Sun, that at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, we took the very Bait the *French* had prepar'd for us, and thereby also took off all the Odium from the *French* Court for the *French* Subjects at *St. Christopher's*, look'd on the *English* as the sole Authors of all their Troubles, and the Cause of their Removal from their ancient Habitations in that (to most of them) their native Islands. In short, by this Treaty of *Utrecht*, we did more for the *French*, than they could do for themselves: We contented ourselves with four or five small Islands, for the Sake of a present Advantage which the *French* did not think worth their keeping — How long we may be suffer'd to retain them, is now the hard Question!

Perhaps it will here be ask'd, 'How is it possible, that the true State of our Sugar Colonies has hitherto been so little, or not at all understood in *England*; since great Statesmen have always taken Care not only to know the exact Posture of their own Dominions, but likewise to understand perfectly the Power or Weakness of their Neighbours? — I shall give you the true Reasons for this, Sir, — And,

FIRST, a Desire in our Sugar Planters to preserve their Credit, and not to be thought in such bad Circumstances, as in good Truth they really are, is one.

SECONDLY, It is not the Business of our Governors (who go abroad to get as much Money, and as fast as they can from the Inhabitants) to let all the World know, That the poor People are sent to Goal to raise it for them, or obliged to fly from the Islands.

THIRDLY, When a Colony is reduced so very low, Divisions ensue, and then the most unfociable and mercilefs of Men, prey on the Innocent, and thrive by publick Destruction — These Men therefore, whatever they pretend, never, or very rarely represent to the King, or his Ministers, the true Condition and Circumstances of the Colonies — They busy themselves in the publick Disorders; — They say too much, or too little; — They disguise the Truth; — They live on the Calamity and Distress of others; — And they cry out against it, but desire it should continue.

FOURTHLY, The Inhabitants of the *British* Sugar Colonies, have hitherto, or till very lately, entertain'd quite contrary Views. The *French* have been for extending

ing their Settlements, and increasing the Numbers of their People. The English have been desirous only to make the most of their Lands they had already broke up and under Occupation. Hence the Proceedings and Encroachments of the French, have not been sufficiently regarded, or complained of: Our Planters, till within these few Years not apprehending the dangerous Condition they must needs be reduced to by the Growth of the French Power to near them; nor believing the Quantity of Sugar they would make, could so greatly injure our Markets, as it is now found they have done. We have been intent only on the present Time; and I am sorry to own a certain Truth, that is, that the English Planters have wanted a Share of that Publick Zeal, which the French give Proofs of on all Occasions. — There are many Instances to be given of this; but I shall only observe that it is from thence, that our Sugar Islands, I fear, have been backward in making the requisite Addresses, Representations, &c. to His Majesty, the Board of Trade, &c.

FIFTHLY, It is the Custom of France to appoint able and experienced Men to govern her Colonies, and they are paid by the King, and rewarded according to their Merits at the End of their Commissions: Whereas I do not remember, that many of our English Governors have, at their Return, expected much for their good Services, whilst honoured with his Majesty's Commission Abroad.

AND, sixthly, many that have been called on, and more that have officiously undertaken, to give true Accounts of our Sugar Colonies, and Trade, have been frequently partial, and often incapable Persons.

HAVING said thus much on the Caribbee Islands, I proceed to Hispaniola and Jamaica. I shall only first add, that the French Caribbee Islands are more contiguous than the British, and that they are all under one Government, viz. the General who resides at Fort Royal in Martinique, which lying to Windward of Guadeloupe, is one great Reason it has been preferred to it, and the aforesaid Project of M. De Poincy, on their first Settlement in these Islands, has been improved for the better, and all the Ends answered that were proposed thereby. Whereas our Caribbee Islands are not only small and weak, but their Power is divided into two Governments, at an inconvenient Distance from each other, in case of any Surprise or Attack from an Enemy, &c. — But now as to,

HISPANIOLA: Every one that knows any thing of the West Indies, either by their own Experience, or from Books, Charts, Maps, &c. must be sensible, that this Island is so much preferable to Jamaica, as to Extent, Situation, Harbours, Wind, and in all other Respects, that it is needless to increase the Length of this Letter with the Comparison. It is certain, that in Cromwell's Time this Matter was well considered, and that the English Forces were under the Necessity of contenting themselves with Jamaica, after being repulsed from Hispaniola. It may be of more Use to Great Britain to inquire by what Ways and Means France possessed herself of this valuable Island; for few consider any other Danger than that of Jamaica, tho' from the North End of Hispaniola, a Squadron of Ships, with People for a Descent, can be at Georgia, Carolina, &c. in a few Days.

It is agreed, I think, by all, and particularly confirmed by P. Tertre, the French Historian, whom I have before quoted, that the French Settlements on Hispaniola were first begun by the Buccaneers, (that is to say) some English and French Men that settled themselves on the Island of Tortuga, at the N. W. End of the Island of Hispaniola, who victualling themselves to Sea with smook-dry'd, instead of salted Meat, from thence had the Name of Buccaneers. As to the Government they were under, the same Author says, that the English had possessed the Island of Tortuga several Years, and did so increase there, that the Spaniards apprehended they might in Time attack Hispaniola, and therefore the Spanish General surprised them with an Army in 1638, put all to the Sword that were in Arms, and hanged those who surrendered after the Battle: But by degrees the English re-possessed themselves of it, and prevailing on some French Buccaneers to join them, they made in all 300 Men, commanded by an Englishman. But that a Buccaneer having informed M. de Poincy, General of the French Islands before spoken of, that there was a great Number of French among the English, and that the English Commander was only a Vagabond (says the Author) Poincy conceived it would be easy to make himself Master of that Island; and to that end he sent one M. La Passeur with some Forces, who in 1640 landed on Tortuga, and sent to the English Governor to let him know, that if he did not retire with all the English in 24 Hours, he would give Quarters to none. Whereupon the French Inhabitants of the Island also took up Arms against the English: so that they embark'd in Disorder with their best Effects, and quitted the Island

to the French, who seized what they left, with one Brass and two Iron Cannon.

BUT the same Historian says, That some French Adventurers from the Island of Tortuga, procured a Commission from the English Governor of Tortuga, and sailed with 400 Men and a French Frigate to St. Domingo, where they landed and march'd to St. Jago, 20 Leagues through the Woods; and that they attack'd it by Break of Day, on Good Friday 1659, killed about 30 that opposed them, surprised the Governor, &c.

That this Enterprize was complain'd of by the Spanish Ambassador to the French King, who answered, They had no Commission from him; that the Spaniards might punish them as Pirates, or apply to the English for Redress, since they had a Commission from them.

And here, Sir, you see there is much to be said, but this Letter I fear, is of too great Length already; I therefore shall end it in a very few Words, viz. That it is evident the Affairs of the West-Indies, must be brought under a better Regulation than they have been for many Years past. Secondly, that the Parties principally interested in it, are the English, French, and Spaniards. Thirdly, the Spaniards are more concerned than the English, that a speedy and final Stop be put to the French Encroachments in those Parts. And Fourthly, if a Triple Treaty cannot be set on Foot between the said Powers by common Consent; — We ought surely to examine into our Pretensions, and not to depart from one Inch of them, on any Account.

I am, Sir, Yours &c.

An English West-Indian,

A. B.

L O N D O N.

Yesterday a Mail arriv'd from France.

The Paris Alman, says, the Letters from Rome mention a Report, that Cardinal Coscia is soon to be set at Liberty.

The Queen of France being above 6 Months gone with Child, has been blooded by way of Precaution.

Next Sunday the Court goes into Mourning, for the Death of the late Count Hanau, a German Nobleman related to her Majesty. The Men to wear black Swords and Buckles, plain or fringed Linnen.

The Ladies to wear black Silk, or black Velvet, and white Fans, plain or fringed Linnen.

Yesterday Philip Fotherby was committed to the Gate-house Westminster, by Justice Robinson, for breaking open the House of Mr. Smalwood, of Westminster, and stealing several Things of Value.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 150 1-half for the Opening. India 175 1-half for the Opening. South Sea 98 to 1-4th. Old Annuity 111 3-4ths for the Opening. New ditto 110 3-8ths to 1-half. Three per Cent. Annuity 104. Emperor's Loan 116. Royal Assurance 106 to 1-half. London Assurance 14 to 1-8th for the Opening. York Buildings 2. African 10. India Bonds 51. 18s. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 41. 19s. to 51. Prem. South Sea Bonds 51. 9s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 61. 12s. 6d. Prem. Salt Talties 3 3-4ths to 5 Prem. English Copper 21. 4s. Prem. Welsh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 115.

WHEREAS a Bill of Indictment for Felony was found by the Grand Jury at the last Assizes held for the County of Somerset, against Edward Halliday, a Bankrupt, late of Frome in the said County, and the Lord Chief Justice Hardwick, sheweth upon his Warrant for apprehending and bringing him to Justice: Whoever therefore shall apprehend and secure the aforesaid Edward Halliday, so that he may be delivered into safe Custody, shall forthwith receive Forty Pounds as a Reward of Giles Hill, of Hemington in the said County, or of Abraham Clavey of Frome, who have at the Request of a considerable Number of the said Bankrupt's Creditors published this, and have under their Hands and Seals a Subscription for this Purpose. As witness our Hands this 4th Day of March 1735.

Giles Hill.

Abraham Clavey.

This Day is Published,

(Price Six-Pence.)

PAPERS relating to the QUAKERS

Tythe Bill: viz.

I. The Case of the People called Quakers

II. Extracts from the yearly Epistles of Meeting of Quakers, held in London, relating to Tythes.

III. A Supplemental Extract from the Quakers yearly Epistles, relating to their Sufferings.

IV. Remarks upon a Bill now depending in Parliament, to enlarge, amend, and render more effectual the Laws now in being, for the more easy Recovery of Tythes, Church rates, and Oblations, and other Ecclesiastical Dues from the People called Quakers: And also, Remarks upon a printed Paper, intitled, The Case of the People called Quakers.

V. The Country Parson's Plea against the Quakers Tythe Bill: Humbly addressed to the Commons of Great Britain assembled in Parliament.

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Southampton, March 25th, 1736.

SUNDRY Persons having found very great Relief in divers Distempers by bathing in Salt-Water at this Place last Year; for the better Convenience of both Sexes, Mr. George Rowell hath erected two large and commodious Places for Bathing; so that either Sex at the same Time may privately Bath. Constant Attendance is every Day given, and Chairs may be had to carry the Person from and to their Lodging.

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II. Rules and Receipts in Physic and Surgery, proper to the Time of the Year.

III. A new and accurate Gardner's Calendar for the ensuing Month.

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V. The State of the Republick of Letters, being an Account of all Books published at home and abroad in the foregoing Month.

VI. A View of the Weekly Essays, being Extracts from the Craftsman, Fog's Journal, Grubstreet Journal, London Journal, Weekly Miscellany, Old Whig, Weekly Oracle, Daily Gazetteer, and every other Paper of the same Kind.

VII. A Collection of Songs, Epigrams, and other Poems.

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For ASTHMA's and CONSUMPTIONS,

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They are a most Incomparable and never-failing Medicine for the immediate Relief and perfect Cure of the most confirmed ASTHMA of the longest standing: And all Sorts of CONSUMPTIONS, even when so far advanced, as not to be cured by any other Medicines in the World.

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Thing that ever was published, or even known in the whole World, in the Cure of the worst ASTHMA's and Consumptions of all Sorts, Coughs, Colds, Catarrhs, &c.

They instantly relieve the Patient in the most suffocating Fit of an Asthma, and make a perfect Cure in a very short Time; for they gently open the Breast, and immediately give Liberty of Breathing, without danger of taking Cold; they admirably allay the Tickling, which provokes frequent Coughing, and take off the uneasy Sensation of acrimonious Humours, cleanse the small Glands, relax the Fibres, and thereby enlarge the Capacities of the Vessels; thus they regularly and quickly Cure the most obstinate Asthma of the longest standing.

They speedily and to Admiration cure all Sorts of Consumptions, Ulcers of the Lungs, &c. removing all Obstructions of the Breast, and Lungs, Hoarseness, Wheezing, Soreness, Shortness of Breath, and all the usual Symptoms which attend the Beginnings of a Consumption; and, if taken in time, will infallibly prevent one when seized. They are also exceeding nutritive and strengthening to Persons of weakly Constitutions, and have no other sensible Operation than as mentioned above.

And by Parity of Reasoning this most excellent Medicine is (and well known to be) the most sovereign Remedy in the World for those troublesome spending Coughs, which many are severely troubled with Night and Morning; also for the Croup, Cough, and Hooping-Cough in Children, having cured Thousands; and are so pleasant, and so few Drops to a Dose, that Children take them with Pleasure, and without any Confinement.

In short, these unparallel'd Chymical Drops are the most infallible Remedy that ever was known (therefore they despite the faint Efforts of any Counterfeiters or Imitators) for the Ailments above-mentioned, and allowed to be so by the most judicious amongst the Learned in Physick; and confirmed by the largest Experience in private Practice, are therefore made for Publick Common Good.